GROCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // ISSUE 11 // VOLUME 39//NOVEMBER2026

THE MESSENGER



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A Season of Gratitude

Submitted by Jill Rhinehart

As November arrives, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of change. The leaves that once filled the mountains with brilliant colors begin to fall, the days grow shorter, and the air becomes cooler. Nature seems to be inviting us to slow down, take a breath, and reflect on the blessings in our lives.

November is often called the season of gratitude. But I wonder, how often do we truly stop and give thanks? Not just for the big blessings, but for the small, everyday gifts that we sometimes overlook.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Notice that Paul doesn't say to give thanks for all circumstances. He says to give thanks in all circumstances. There is a difference.

Life is not always easy. We experience disappointment, grief, uncertainty, and challenges that sometimes leave us wondering what God is doing. Yet even in those difficult seasons, we can find reasons to be grateful. Perhaps it is a friend who calls at just the right moment, a kind word from a stranger, a beautiful sunrise over the mountains, or the quiet assurance that we are not walking through life alone.

Gratitude doesn't mean pretending everything is perfect. It means recognizing that God's goodness is still present, even when life is far from perfect.

As I think about our church family, I am reminded of the many ways God's love is made visible through you. I see it in those who faithfully serve behind the scenes, those who offer prayers for someone who is hurting, those who give generously, and those who show up week after week to worship, encourage, and care for one another.

Sometimes we become so focused on what needs to be done, what we wish were different, or what challenges lie ahead that we forget to celebrate what God is already doing among us.

This November, I want to encourage each of us to practice intentional gratitude. Take a few moments each day to name three things for which you are thankful. Reach out to someone who has made a difference in your life. Look for an opportunity to bless someone else. And perhaps most importantly, remember to thank God not only for what God has given you, but for God's faithful presence in your life.

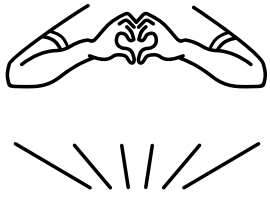
As we approach Thanksgiving and prepare to enter the busy season of Advent, may we resist the temptation to rush through these days. Instead, pause long enough to breathe and recognize the beauty of ordinary moments and the extraordinary grace of God.

THANK YOU FROM GROCE UMC

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving season, we want to express gratitude to the local businesses and vendors who have donated services and products to our church over the past year. Their generosity does more than just provide for our physical needs, it strengthens our community and enriches our ministries. We are so incredibly blessed by their support and encourage our Church Family to show these businesses some love in return!

- **Interior Painting of Asheville** provided many painting services at no cost
- **Davis Mechanical** donated materials and labor for our heating and cooling systems
- **High Rock Waterproofing, Guaranteed Suppy, Stone Restoration, Terracon** professionally sealed our sidewalks
- **T&K Utilities** loaned us materials to use in our Summer Music Camp
- **Boyd Landscaping** cleaned and hauled debris after the tree lot at no charge
- **Sans Tree Service** performed playground inspection and limb removal
- **Sam Banks, PAWS** donated equipment for clearing our property
- **Loring McIntyre** for grading work, past and upcoming
- **Chic-fil-a (Tunnel Rd)** donated gift cards to our Music Camp kids
- **Bryce Fore** provided deeply discounted electrical work for our Sanctuary

Thank You



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01	Ashley Baylor
	Carolyn Cutlip
	Frank Quinlan
11/05	Sandra Justus
11/08	Bob Barcafer
11/09	Tammy Peek
11/12	Tricia Clark
	Michael Redd
11/15	Dennis Butler
	Larry Sexton
11/19	Sean Donati
11/20	Tracey Briggs
11/21	Alex Donati
	Mike Goforth
11/22	Bertha Ramsey
11/23	AC Williams



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSERIES

11/01	Fran & Russell Shuler (46)
11/03	Betty & Gary Brockway (54)
11/04	Jenn & Dean Shatley (20)
11/13	Bill & Carole Gilham (44)
11/20	Carolyn & Larry Barber (62)
11/28	Ed & Nancy Saxman (56)

PUMPKIN PATCH REPORT

Submitted by Jane Williams

Thanks to everyone that helped with the PP, in all kinds of ways. It takes lots of hands to unload 1,713 pumpkins. The Cub Scouts were amazing, along the many people from the East Asheville community, who joined our church members and got the job done in record time.



At the time of this report we had a few more days, but sales had already exceeded $13,000 on 10/26. That means our profit is over $5,000 on 10/26, which will be distributed equally between Beloved Asheville, Chances for Children, Homeward Bound, and Groce Youth Missions.



Many dedicated folks have volunteered in the PP. **Will Troxell** has made credit card payments possible with the Square, which have increased profits. **Jim Creel** suggested buy one get one 1/2 price, which has increased sales, since we received 634 more pumpkins this year, with only a $30 price increase.



Moments with kids running into the patch to pick out their own pumpkins are so much fun. We even had a 10 day old baby visit with the proud parents taking photos. Thank you Church!

Stewardship Campaign – Consecration Sunday

Submitted by Gary Brockway

As we continue our Stewardship Campaign, please mark your calendar for **Consecration Sunday** on **November 8th** .

Everyone should have received an email or mail by post with Stewardship Campaign materials including a pledge card. Printed pledge cards are also available at the back of the church and in the office. If you have not received this information, please let the office know.

On Consecration Sunday, we will turn in our financial commitment cards for the upcoming church year. Thanks again to each of you for what you do for our church, each other, and for our community.

TABLE OF 16

Submitted by Linda Lankton



Here is a photo from the last meeting of Table of 16 in October. This is always such a fun time to gather outside of church walls for laughter and fellowship. Join us at our next gathering on **Nov. 4th at 11:30 am**. See the sidebar for upcoming dates and be part of the fun!

"Always give thanks to God the Father for everything. Give thanks to Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

— EPHESIANS 5:20

UPCOMING DATES FOR TABLE OF 16:

- NOVEMBER 4
- DECEMBER 16
- JANUARY 27
- FEBRUARY 10
- MARCH 10
- APRIL 14
- MAY 12
- JUNE 9

11:30 AM AT LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE OFF TUNNEL ROAD
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SEE LINDA LANKTON FOR MORE INFORMATION



October 13, 2026, Groce Leadership Team (TL3 – Team Loving Learning Leading) Meeting Summary

- **True opened the meeting in prayer**
- 9/15 meeting notes were approved
- The group shared blessings and concerns about each other as well as other members of the Groce church family.
- **Trustees**
  - **Security procedures** are being developed with input from former Asheville police chief and Groce member, Mike Lamb.
  - **Several recent and upcoming repairs were reviewed**. It was noted that the exterior wall below grade waterproofing that is causing moisture issues in the lower level Godly Play storage room and adjacent bathroom will be done in the Spring.
  - Emphasis is on minimizing expenses.
- **Vacant apartment 101, formerly occupied by deceased Andrew Kolvick**
  - Sara Watson, Homeward Bound Housing Placement Team Manager attended the meeting for an extensive question and answer session from which a motion was approved to enter into an agreement with Homeward Bound to identify and place a new military veteran for this apartment.
  - The contents of the apartment are being removed so that painting, duct cleaning and air handling unit cleaning can occur to get rid of the smoke smell so ready for a new tenant.
- **Epworth building leasing agent engagement.** Cristal Palomo Ramos of Realty World Marketplace (RWM) joined the meeting for the trustees to meet her and understand her potential services to prepare NC Realtor format commercial leases for all Epworth tenants to better define tenant and landlord terms, rights and responsibilities. Cristal was identified through our district superintendent and Trinity UMC who uses Cristal and spoke very positively. RWM's fees for this service are one month rent for a new tenant or a half month rent for an existing tenant or a new tenant previously identified by Groce. A motion was approved to enter into a leasing agent agreement with RWM.
- **Financial update**. Groce's year to date income vs expense, cash balance and apportionments position were reviewed.
- **October 25th Church Family meeting.** The focus will be on the Care and Share Sunday and the stewardship campaign.
- **Jill closed the meeting in prayer**

To read the full meeting notes follow this link to the Groce website.

Music Ministry Updates

Donna Gasperson and our Music Director, **Becky Wilburn**, will be playing Christmas piano duets on **Sunday, December 13 from 2-3pm** during ABCCM's **Return to Bethlehem**. Be sure to come and see this wonderful performance!

We are so close to our goal of 45 new **choir chairs**, but you still have an opportunity to purchase yours! The chairs are **$75 each** and can be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. Be sure to designate your donation as "choir chairs". See **Becky** for more information.

United Methodist Student Day

From umc.org

United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday created by United Methodist Church Sunday Schools who collected offerings to help advance education for their children. The fund was originally established in 1872 as the Children's Fund. Today United Methodist Student Day Sunday has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith. The funds received from the offering go into the United Methodist Scholarship Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students.

Currently, there are over **70 scholarships** available for United Methodist students. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). Students can apply for scholarships at gbhem.org/scholarships.

- There will be a special collection for this fund on **November 29th**. Please plan to give prayerfully.

DEBBIE ROSS WILL BE LEADING AN **ADVENT STUDY CLASS** ON TUESDAY MORNINGS IN DECEMBER.
THE DATES WILL BE **DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, AND 22 AT 11AM IN THE PINK ROOM.**
THE BOOK IS BORDER CROSSINGS: AN ADVENT JOURNEY BY REV. DR. HEDY COLLVER.
THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE OFFICE AND THE COST OF THE BOOK WILL BE APPROXIMATELY **$12.**
PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR COPY.

CALENDAR REMINDERS:

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 25-26 IN HONOR OF THANKSGIVING

THERE WILL BE NO NURTURE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER

SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON

HOSTED BY GROCE UMC YOUTH

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, And Dessert

Meal provided by donation.

Funds benefit Groce UMC Youth Ministry.



NOV 15

AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CAMP

December 4: 4:00-8:00
December 5: 10:00-3:00
December 6: performance at 10:30 worship service

- Singing
- Crafts
- Meals
- Scripture

$20 per child or $15 per child for families with 2 or more registered



Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Rd. Asheville NC

Sign up at: groceumc.org/musiccamp



Groce UMC Poinsettia Order Form 2026

In this season of Advent, the Altar Guild invites you to purchase a poinsettia for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one. The cut off date to submit this form and money for all dates is **November 22.** **Each plant is $8.**

Name _____ Phone _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

Number of plants ordered _____ *Please remember to include **$8 per plant**

Date requested: **Nov. 29** **Dec. 6** **Dec. 11** **Dec. 20**

NOVEMBER 2026

Grace United Methodist Church

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name" – Psalm 100:4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 3:00 Blessing of the Animals 5:00 Youth 6:00 HCCA Chili Cookoff (AH)	2 11:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Canasta (AH) 3:00 Handbells 7:00 Beekeepers (AH)	3 10:00 Parkinsons (AH) 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 7:00 SMBB (AH)	4 11:30 Table of 16 (offsite) 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH)	5 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:00 United Methodist Men (offsite - Cornerstone) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	6 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)	7
8 CONSECRATION SUNDAY 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth	9 11:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Handbells 6:00 Girl Scouts (CH) 6:00 Guitar League (AH)	10 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 11:00 Staff Meting (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 4:15 Pumpkin Patch Mtg (JB) 6:00 Basket Guild (CH) 7:00 BH Exec Mtg (JB) 7:00 SMBB (AH)	11 VETERANS DAY 5:15 UMM @ VRQ (offsite) 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH)	12 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	13 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)	14 10:00 COA Medicare Class (AH)
15 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 11:30 Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser (AH) 5:00 Youth	16 11:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Canasta (AH) 3:00 Handbells	17 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 7:00 SMBB (AH) 7:00 HCCA Green Comm (CH)	18 10:00 Sarah Circle (AL) 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH)	19 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	20 3:00 Tailgate Holiday Market (AH) 6:00 Quintet (AH)	21
22 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth 6:00 HCCA Potluck (AH)	23 11:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Handbells 6:00 Girl Scouts (CH)	24 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 11:00 Outreach (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 7:00 SMBB (AH)	25 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 AA Meeting (CH)	26 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! 	27 6:00 Quintet (AH)	28 10:00 Guitar League (AH/CH)
29 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth	30 11:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Handbells					AH - Asbury Hall AL - Asbury Lobby CH - Charter Hall JB - Jack Bass Room